

Application No. 10/711,129
Technology Center 2886
Amendment dated January 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated September 24, 2007

REMARKS

As of the filing of the present Office Action, claims 1-16 were pending in the above-identified US Patent Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, but otherwise deemed the claims to recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner explained that “[t]here is no indication how the various components/sub-systems achieve self-calibration.” In response, Applicant has amended the claims as set forth above. In particular:

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the articulated white reference reflection standard (7) is “adapted to generate a white reference signal for calibration of the optical reflectance probe system when articulated to a position for reflecting light from the illuminant light source [3] to the optical pickup means [4],” instead of simply reciting that the articulated white reference reflection standard (7) is “adapted as an illuminant reference by reflecting light from the illuminant light source [3] to the optical pickup means [4].” Support for this amendment can be found in Applicant’s specification at paragraph [0025].

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Independent claim 10 has been similarly amended to recite that "a white reference signal is generated for calibration of the optical reflectance probe system when the white reference standard [7] is articulated into the optical path so as to be illuminated by the illuminant light source [3] and reflect light to the optical pickup means [4]." Support for this amendment is also found in Applicant's specification at paragraph [0025].

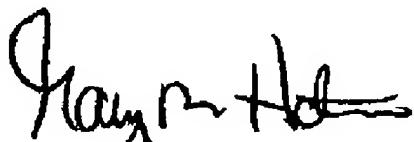
Applicant has also taken this opportunity to clarify dependent claims 7 and 15 by removing the limitation of the shutter (20) being "articulated" (which is foreseeable but not shown in the Figures), and by inserting recitations similar to those inserted in claims 1 and 10 for the purpose of clarifying that the "shutter [20] is] adapted to generate a dark reference signal for calibration of the optical reflectance probe system by shuttering the illuminant light source." Support for the latter amendment is again found in Applicant's specification at paragraph [0025].

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the rejection of claims 1 and 10 are overcome, and respectfully requests that his patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Hartman
Reg. No. 38,898

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Hartman & Hartman, P.C.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
TEL.: (219) 462-4999
FAX: (219) 464-1166